

### The Conway Family Part 3 – The Boxer

George and Savina's daughter Ruth Helen married John Nathan Trimm who was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Trimm of Memphis Tennessee. According to the marriage announcement in the February 14, 1936 edition of the *Amherstburg Echo*, Ruth and John were married by the Reverend Father Louis Costello on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Parish House in Detroit. Ruth was attended by her sister Thelma Conway and John was attended by Mr. Haven Quinn of Detroit. It also mentions that the couple intended to live in Detroit.

Ruth's brother Lester is written about in the *Amherstburg Echo* on May 31, 1935 because of his birthday. The article titled "Delightful Birthday Party" says "Almost 50 members of the Baptist Sunday School gathered for a delightful party at the home of Mr. Norman Wilson, George Street, on Friday evening last to honor the twentieth birthdays of Miss Alva Wilson and Lester Conway. The superintendent, Mrs. Ellen Kirtley, presided, while Miss Florence Kirtley was the sponsor. A musical program arranged by Miss Dorothy McCurdy, and some interesting games directed by Miss Florence Dean, were the two main features of the evening. Baskets of spring flowers were in abundance and an elaborate lunch was served at beautifully decorated tables, the colors being pink and green. Mr. Ralph McCurdy toasted the honored guests, and Mr. Conway responded, while Mr. Wilson, the host, expressed his pleasure and appreciation of the honor paid his daughter. Both Miss Wilson and Mr. Conway received many nice and useful gifts."

Another birthday celebration for Lester also appeared in the June 3, 1938 issue of the *Echo* which says that "Mr. Lester Conway entertained on his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, Monday evening, the guests comprising his Community Club members, and Miss Violet Webb of Detroit, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Dillard of Cleveland." The *Echo* also mentions in 1940 that Lester held the

position of President in the Community Club for two years. This club met at the First Baptist Church in Amherstburg.

Lester was also an athlete. In an article titled "Leather Flies At The B.M. Club Boxing Bouts" from the *Amherstburg Echo* it says "The science of how to push leather in somebody else's face was demonstrated with such enthusiastic abandon by a group of amateur boxers at the Brunner Mond Club, Amherstburg, Monday night that the 200 or more fans who were witness of the hand-to-hand conflicts forgot to worry about the heat and gave themselves over to a tense enjoyment of the pummeling exchange." This event involved Lester who fought against Arnold Wilson in the 135 pounds category.

Lester also volunteered his time to coach softball. The *Echo* states, in 1941, that "A five-team schedule has been drawn up by the Amherstburg Youth Centre for the Juvenile Soft Ball League and games will get under way next week. The following have offered their services as managers of the different teams: Gerald Coyle, Ralph Charette, Augustin Jones, Ralph McManemy, Joseph Fitzmaurice and Lester Conway. Some of the bats and balls have already been donated by the Senior Softball League and the club would appreciate receiving more equipment suitable for practise but for which people might not have use for. The first game will be played next week on the Hamilton Park, Richmond Street, and Mayor Marra will pitch the first ball. The members of the Youth Committee would appreciate it very much if the parents of the boys would attend the games and cheer their sons on to victory."

A few years later, the *Echo* once again mentions Lester's military service. It states "Private Lester Conway arrived in town from the West Coast Tuesday night. Private Conway has been honorably discharged from the Canadian Army."

**What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week for part 4.**